

Tuesday 16th November 2010

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلّٰهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَ نَسْتَعِينُهُ وَ نَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَ نَعُوذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنْ
شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَ مِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللّٰهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ
لَهُ، وَ مَنْ يُضِلِلْ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ. وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ
لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

All Praise be to اللّٰهُ .

We praise him and ask him for help and forgiveness. We ask him for protection from the evilness within ourselves and from our own bad deeds. Whom-so-ever God guides to the truth no one can lead astray, and whom-so-ever He leaves misguided, no one has the power to guide.

I testify that there is no God but اللّٰهُ to whom there is no partner and I testify that Muhammad ﷺ is his servant and messenger

Brothers and sisters: Eid Mubarak

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. There is no god worthy of worship except Allah. Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. To Allah belongs all praise.

Allah(SWT) tells us in the Holy Quran:



“And when you have completed your holy rites, remember Allah as you would remember your fathers and even with a stronger remembrance” (Al-Baqara, 2:200)

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

Yesterday brothers and sisters, three million Muslims headed towards mount Arafat chanting:

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ ، لَبَّيْكَ لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ ،
إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ وَالنُّعْمَةَ لَكَ وَالْمُلْكَ ، لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ

“Labaika-Llahuma-Labaik. Labaika-Laa-Sharika-Laka-Labaik. Inna-Llhamda-Wanni’ mata-Laka-Walmulk. Laa-Sharika-Lak”.

As they headed towards Arafat, they were all proclaiming; Oh Allah, here I am as you have commanded me. Oh Allah, I come to you in the full belief that you have no partners or associates. Oh Allah, I come to you in the full belief that all praise, all blessings and all ownership belong to You; there is no partner with you in any of this. With this belief in the heart of every man and woman, the pilgrims headed towards Arafat seeking the forgiveness of Allah, seeking the Mercy of Allah and seeking the blessings of Allah.

“And there are those who say: Our Lord! Give us a blessing in this world and a blessing in the Hereafter and save us from the torment of the fire” (Al-Baqara, 2:201)

Brothers and sisters, this is the second Eid day for the Muslims. This is the Eid of Adha, the Eid that celebrates the essence of the message of the oneness of Allah(SWT). Three million Muslims in a state of Ihram, devoted solely to Allah(SWT) and detached from what this world has to offer, asking Allah(SWT) to grant them guidance and forgiveness, for them and for the Muslim Ummah. If we ever want to take with us the message of Islam, it is what this day is about. It is about the submission of the created to his creator.

We the Muslims should say it and should say it with pride: we are the created, and we worship none but our creator. In this belief lies our comfort. In this belief lies our sense of inner peace and our sense of inner tranquility. In this belief we face this world with all that it has to take from us. We the Muslims need to make our choices, do we belong to this world or do we belong to Allah(SWT).

With such a deceptive Dunia we the Muslims need to grasp the true meaning of:

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ ، لَبَّيْكَ لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ ،
إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ وَالنُّعْمَةَ لَكَ وَالْمُلْكَ ، لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ

This is where our freedom lies; it lies in our total submission to Allah(SWT). Once we grasp this meaning, we are truly free from everything and anything that enslaves us. We control our desires and not the other way round. We control our “Nafss” and not the other way round. And most importantly, we seek refuge in Allah(SWT) from sheitan.

Over the next three days, the pilgrims will continue with the holy rites of Hajj. In doing so, they will be casting the stones at the three “Jamaraat”.

The story behind the three “Jamaraat” lies at the heart of the struggle between man and sheitan. As Muslims, we firmly believe in the story of the creation of our father, Adam(AS). We firmly believe that sheitan has declared his enmity towards us and we firmly believe that sheitan wants us to disbelieve and disobey.

In Surat As-Saafat, we read in ayah 102 the story of the sacrifice Ibrahim(AS) was ordered to give:

فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ السَّعْيَ قَالَ يَبْنَؤِيَّ إِنِّي أَرَىٰ فِي الْمَنَامِ أَنِّي أَذْبَحُكَ فَانظُرْ مَاذَا تَرَىٰ

“And when he (Ismaeel) was of an age to work with him, He said: My son, I see in my dream that I offer you in sacrifice; look at what you see(in that)” (As-Saafat, 37:102)

Ismaeel(AS) replied:

أَفْعَلْ مَا تُؤْمَرُ سَتَجِدُنِي إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ

“Do as you have been ordered, you will find me, Allah willing, to be amongst the patient” (As-Saafat, 37:102)

Without hesitation and without doubt, both, father and son recognized that the vision was an order and a stern test from Allah(SWT). Opponents of Islam have questioned the wisdom of this story. Why would Allah(SWT) ask of Ibrahim and of Ismaeel such a test that demanded human sacrifice.

Brothers and sisters, let us not go too far in our thinking. Every day of our lives people sacrifice one thing or another for the sake of this Dunia. People sacrifice wealth, people sacrifice relationships and people sacrifice other people for the pursuit of this Dunia. Look around you. Look at Iraq, look at Zimbabwe and look at Afghanistan. Every time there is a victim, there is a sacrifice. The difference is that the sacrifice is of someone else and it is for sheitan. That is the equation brothers and sisters.

Allah(SWT) tested Ibrahim(AS) and tested Ismaeel(AS) by the offer of sacrifice to establish the total submission to Allah(SWT). **In that act of submission, the concept of human sacrifice ended.**

Sheitan was being defeated. As Ibrahim took his son to carry out the sacrifice, sheitan went to Hajar the mother and tried to persuade her to disobey the command of Allah, but he failed. He went to Ismaeel the son but he failed and he went to Ibrahim the father and failed for the third time. Sheitan failed. The pilgrims perform the rites of stoning at the “Jamaraat” commemorating those three failed attempts of sheitan.

On this day, sheitan is at his most miserable state because sheitan recognizes that by the willful submission to Allah, he is defeated. Brothers and sisters, defeating sheitan is not an aimless exercise. When we defeat sheitan, we promote a society without jealousy, a society without greed, a society without hate. We promote a society that enjoys justice, equality and peace. Just look around you all over the world and ask yourself what is mankind submitting to?

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفر الله لي و لكم

2nd Khutbah:

الحمد لله ثم الحمد لله . الحمد لله نستعينه ونستغفره ، ونعوذ بالله من شرور
أنفسنا وسيئات أعمالنا . أما بعد :

Brothers and sisters, on a day like this, I feel blessed to be able to say; I am a Muslim and I am proud of it. But pride in being a Muslim is a wasteful pride if not supported by actions that demonstrate the positive impact of Islam on me as a person. Brothers and sisters, Islam is a complete way of life. It is a way of life that Allah(SWT) has perfected for us, so do not let any Tom, Dick or Harry convince you that someone has a better system.

Allah(SWT) proclaims in the Holy Quran:

الْيَوْمَ يَئِسَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ دِينِكُمْ فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ وَاخْشَوْنِ الْيَوْمَ
أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

"This day, those who disbelieve are in despair of your religion and your way of life; so do not fear them, but fear Me! This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed My favour unto you, and have chosen for you Islam as your way of life" (Al-Ma'eda, 5:3)

If you still have any doubts, this is what we read in Surat Al-Imran, ayahs 18 and 19:

شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُو الْعِلْمِ قَابِئًا بِأَقْسَطِ لَأ
إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿١٨﴾ إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

“Allah bears witness that there is no god but He, and (so do) the angels and those who have knowledge; maintaining His creation justly; there is no god but He, the Mighty, the Wise. The “Deen” before Allah is Islam” (Al-Imran, 3:18-9)

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. There is no god worthy of worship except Allah. Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. To Allah belongs all praise.

We praise Allah(SWT) for blessing us with this complete “Deen”, and we praise Allah(SWT) for blessing us by being Muslims. We ask him to grant us the understanding of this beautiful Deen, and grant us the wisdom of achieving total submission to His will. Brothers and sisters let us ask Allah(SWT) to help us understand what Islam is and ask Allah (SWT) with great sincerity to grant us total submission to his will.

I leave you with this ayah in Surat A-Hajj which sums up the message of Islam.

فَالِذْهَبْكُمْ إِلَهًا وَحِدًا فَلَهُ أَسْلَمُوا

“And your god is One God, therefore to Him submit” (Al-Hajj, 22:34)

Brothers and sisters: Eid Mubarak